

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00

OMB-01 STR-04 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 PA-01

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R 291722Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7475

INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS 0636

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: VICTOR REUTHER'S MEMOIRS

1. LA VIE OUVRIERE (VO), THE WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED CGT (CIRCULATION 600,000) DEVOTES NO LESS THAN SIX PAGES OF ITS NUMBER 1682, (22-28 NOVEMBER) ISSUE TO EXCERPTS FROM VICTOR REUTHER'S BOOK "THE BROTHERS REUTHER AND THE STORY OF THE UAW." THE ARTICLE TITLED "CIA AND THE AMERICAN UNIONS, THE SHAMEFUL DOLLARS" (LES DOLLARS DE LA HONTE) CONTAINS LARGE PHOTOGRAPHS OF GEORGE MEANY, VICTOR REUTHER AND IRVING BROWN AND AS A BACKGROUND A PHOTOGRAPH IN COLOR OF THE CIA HEADQUARTERS IN MCLEAN.

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2. A SHORT INTRODUCTORY NOTE IDENTIFIES THE AUTHOR

AND THE OTHER PERSONALITIES INVOLVED IN REUTHER'S MEMOIRS AND FOR THE REST LETS VICTOR REUTHER'S OWN WORDS TELL THE STORY SINCE IT OBVIOUSLY SERVES CGT PURPOSES SO WELL.

3. THE SELECTED EXCERPTS DEAL WITH THE HISTORY OF THE CGT SPLIT IN 1947 WHICH LED TO THE CREATION OF FORCE OUVRIERE AND THE MANNER IN WHICH U.S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WAS CHANNELED TO FORCE OUVRIERE AND CISL IN ITALY THROUGH AN ALLEGED LARGE SCALE CONSPIRACY BETWEEN CIA AND AFL-CIO CONCERNING THE LABOR MOVEMENTS IN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA.

4. THE INTRODUCTORY NOTE IS QUITE CLEVERLY WORDED BECAUSE IT STATES THAT "THE FO MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW THAT WE ARE PUBLISHING THIS TEXT NOT IN ORDER TO EMBARRASS THEM BUT IN ORDER TO INFORM THEM OF AN IMPORTANT MOMENT OF HISTORY WHICH IS SHARED BY ALL THE WORKERS OF OUR COUNTRY." IT IS OBVIOUS THAT LA VIE OUVRIERE AIMS AT THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN FORCE OUVRIERE FOR WHOM THE 1947 SPLIT IS ANCIENT HISTORY IN WHICH THEY DO NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY INTERESTED.

5. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT VICTOR REUTHER'S BOOK WILL DO QUITE A BIT OF HARM TO FREE TRADE UNIONISM IN EUROPE AND ESPECIALLY IN FRANCE, AND WILL MAKE CGT'S TIRELESS EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE FO WITH THE YOUNGER GENERATION SO MUCH EASIER. THE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CIA MONEY HAVING HELPED FO IN ITS EARLY STAGES HAS BEEN MADE MANY TIMES BEFORE AND FO LEADERS, BOTH OLD AND YOUNG, HAVE LEARNED TO DISCOUNT IT. WHAT MAKES VICTOR REUTHER'S BOOK MORE INSIDIOUS IS FIRST, THE FACT THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT SOMEONE IN THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE HANDLING OF THAT MONEY ADMITS AS MUCH AND, SECOND, THAT HE AFFIRMS THAT THE 1947 SPLIT WAS AN AMERICAN IDEA WHICH WAS PUSHED DOWN THE THROATS OF THE FO

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LEADERS. IN GENERAL, THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK QUESTIONS THE WISDOM OF THE CGT SPLIT AND EVEN QUOTES LEON JONHEAUX AS HAVING TOLD VICTOR REUTHER THAT THE FO ORGANIZERS SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN CGT AND WORKED FROM WITHIN TO RECAPTURE CONTROL FROM THE COMMUNISTS.

6. IF CGT MADE THE DECISION TO DEVOTE SO MUCH SPACE OF LA VIE OUVRIERE TO VICTOR REUTHER'S BOOK, ONE CAN BE SURE THAT CGT MILITANTS WILL RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE ARTICLE. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE CGT WILL USE THE SOFTSELL APPROACH SINCE THEIR PURPOSE IS NOT TO PUT FO YOUNGER MEMBERS ON THE DEFENSIVE, BUT SUBVERT THEM BY UNDERMINING THEIR
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COMMITMENT TO FO AND ITS PHILOSOPHY. THE TIMING IS PROPITIOUS FROM CGT'S POINT OF VIEW BECAUSE IN

ANTICIPATION OF A 1978 ELECTORAL VICTORY OF THE
UNITED LEFT, CGT LEADERS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO SING
THE LABOR UNITY SONG.

7. COMMENT: REGARDLESS OF WHAT MOTIVES
MAY HAVE LED VICTOR REUTHER TO WRITE ALL THOSE PAGES
WHICH CGT HAS FOUND SO USEFUL FOR ITS PURPOSES, IT IS
DOUBTFUL THAT VICTOR REUTHER'S BOOK WILL DO GREAT
SERVICE TO THE FREE AND DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT
IN FRANCE.
GAMMON

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